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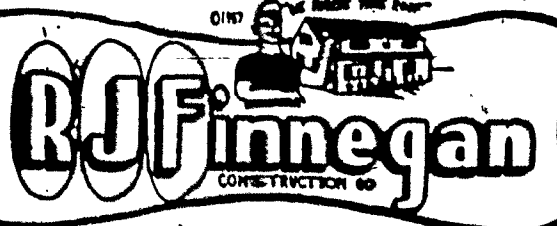


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The assumption of so terrible a burden, even as it marks out its bearer as a man forever apart, at the same time gives him the strength to lift it.

In what manner this man whose identity is less important than his office, has come by degrees to bear the burden of hundreds of millions who know nothing of him, is no longer important even if it could be determined.

What matters now is that we recognize what we have done. The loneliness of power—a universally accepted truth. There remains the recognition of the loneliness of absolute power, the responsibility for all life and death, a responsibility hitherto reserved only to God.

In a sense, so terribly real it transcends paradox, mankind has by a conscious decision appointed for itself a God-substitute. And the blasphemy of the appointment by men of one man to live and die for us all is noted in the ultimate blasphemy of the world that has made it necessary.

And so, once again, we are reminded that no man is an island and the bell that tolls in Dallas tolls for us all. Not only because of our inexplicable interdependence, not only because

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... the loneliness of power

It shows that although it may be expedient that one man should die for the people it is neither wise nor just. Not only because it teaches us all that we cannot slough off our responsibilities by putting them all onto one elected scapgoat, but, above all, because as the bell tolls it reminds us, in the hideous emphasis it places upon the reality of power, of the frailty of the body in which that power must ultimately rest.

And, in so doing, prompts us to remember with Montaigne that "it is never so high on a stool yet sit we upon our own tails."

Amid the echoes of what was, with the exception of the one that killed the Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo, the loudest shot the world has ever heard, one bitterly ironic coincidence has gone unnoticed.

A few hours before he died, President Kennedy had taken time out of his crowded program to look in on the birthday celebration in Dallas of John Nance Garner, Garner, who was ninety-five yesterday, was Roosevelt's first vice president and, by far, the senior surviving former holder of that office.

At the 1960 Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, Lyndon Johnson, defeated by Kennedy for the presidential nomination, He hesitated. To help him make up his mind, he telephoned his fellow Texan, Garner, who had held the post all those years before, to ask whether he would

advise acceptance. No, said Garner, he would not. And, in a typically Texan phrase, added Lyndon, the vice-presidential job was a pitcher of warm spit. Nevertheless, Johnson accepted Kennedy's offer and in consequence became yesterday evening the thirty-sixth president of the United States.

The succession was immediate. In the world today, neither grief nor shock can be permitted to create an interregnum in the citadels of power. The President is dead. Long live the President.

And such is the pace at which the modern world moves, that even before the morning is over, indeed even before it has begun, we must begin to think not of the past but of the future.

What then can be said of the future with President Johnson? For the time has long since gone by when the responsibility of the President of the United States was confined to the people of that country alone. I believe that this, now global responsibility has fallen into good hands.

The contrasts between President Johnson and his predecessor are more obvious than in the case of Johnson, unlike Kennedy is not an intellectual. Then, neither was Truman, Johnson is provincial where Kennedy was metropolitan. But his years as leader of the senate gave him a knowledge, understanding, and control of the legislative process in politics that most sophisticated of that of Roosevelt, Johnson, in the inevitable isolation of the vice-presidency, had no direct power to exercise. Yet Kennedy, unlike Roosevelt, took his deputy fully into his confidence and shared with him the results of his decisions, if not their making.

Johnson's health is suspect. So was Roosevelt's, so was Eisenhower's and so, indeed, was Kennedy's own.

President Johnson will bring to the awful responsibility of his office qualities and a record that offer promise, that he will be more than merely the best available shadow of the light that failed.

Though a Southerner, his record on the Color question, the rock on which America's future must either be built or sink, is the best of the best in the Democratic party. It is not clear through Congress the only successful civil rights legislation of recent years. And during the 1960 elections, he and his wife faced physical violence in their home state for his liberalism.

The other major domestic political achievement of his career, though here too the credit goes to the Senate, is the passage of the Voting Rights Act. It is apparent, was the planning and execution of the strategy that finally destroyed Senator McCarthy.

There is every reason to believe that the assumption of supreme office will only confirm in President Johnson these policies, the beliefs that inform these actions and attitudes.

Abroad, he will be chiefly remembered for his dash to Berlin during the crisis of the Berlin wall. He was then much criticized for his impetuous behavior, but no part of that criticism came from the Berliners, who correctly saw in his visit a symbol of America's determination to stand firm in the face of any threat to freedom on the other side of the Iron Curtain. And there is every reason to fear that the thaw in the frozen attitudes of East-West relations will be seriously endangered, if alone reversed, by President Johnson's accession.

His incomparable political shrewdness, the clarity and firmness of the line which President Kennedy had drawn on the charts of policy into the future, the team of younger men that he has inherited—these will combine to insure continuity in those aspects of American policy which are of such direct concern to us all.

The ambassadorial mission he undertook for the then-fledgling president, a few weeks after Kennedy had been elected, took him through Western Europe including Britain. And wherever he went he made a good impression, which will stand him in good stead now. And it is significant that this mission was carried out in the company of so liberal and devoted an internationalist as Senator Fulbright.

Nobody tonight can wish more fervently than President Johnson himself that this dreadful opportunity had not fallen upon him. But since it has, we citizens of the Alliance have the right to hope for much from his leadership and the duty to wish him well with all our hearts. I think it is his honor and wishes will not be disappointed.



NEW EAGLE SCOUTS are three boys of Troop 151 representing St. Thomas the Apostle parish, Douglas Sick, 15; David Brookings, 17; and Thomas Bowlin, 14.

Three Given Eagle Rank At St. Thomas

In an unusual and impressive ceremony last week, three members of Boy Scout Troop 151 sponsored by St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Irondequoit at Bowlin) were promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Scouting executives Lynn Ferris and Charles Clutz joined Monsignor Richard K. Burns, pastor, in presenting scouting's highest honor to Thomas Bowlin, David Brookings and Douglas Sick.

ALL GRADUATES of St. Thomas School, Bowlin, 14, is now a freshman at Bishop Kearney, Brookings, 17, a senior at Aquinas, and Sick, 15, a freshman at Irondequoit High School.

Scouts since Cub days, the three new Eagles hold the major Catholic scouting award of Ad Altare Dei, and all are active in their schools in athletics, music and other pursuits.

Scholarship Of 2 Diocesan Women Cited

Two diocesan young women were cited for scholarship at Marymount College, Scranton, Pa.

Miss Ann Marie D'Angelo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D'Angelo, 325 Enterprise St., is a candidate for the bachelor's degree with concentration in English.

Miss Zoltowski, a graduate of Nazareth Academy, Rochester, is working toward a bachelor's degree with a major in piano and a minor in flute.

What's New In The Parishes

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE Rosary Altar Society meeting Dec. 4, school, Christmas program planned. Mrs. Mueller and Mary Busceni to demonstrate making Christmas confexperies decorations. Mrs. Richard Mack to preside. Cynthia Hurley and neighbors of Evandale Rd., hostesses.

GUARDIAN ANGELS, Healdville. All women of parish are invited to Christmas Tureen Supper of Rosary Society, Dec. 5. Benediction and Rosary before supper at 7 p.m. in church. Everyone asked to bring a dish to pass and fifty-cent grab bag gift. The bands of Marilyn Rice and Mary Bringley are hostesses. A skit, "Arrest Ye Merry Gentlemen" to be staged by Ray and Maureen Williams, Jim Mills and Roger Hogan. Information on Advent wreaths and orders for wreaths are available from Eileen Hogan, CH 4-3598.

ST. LAWRENCE, Greece. Christmas Sale of Rosary Society, Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mrs. R. Heindl, chairman. Christmas party and tureen supper of Rosary Society, Wednesday, Dec. 4 in parish hall, North Greece Rd. Each person is asked to bring a covered dish and a grab bag gift. Mrs. Leo Kujawsky and Mrs. Jack Eckel, chairmen.

ST. ROSE, Lima. Annual Christmas party at St. Rose School, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Sisters of St. Joseph who sat the school will be guests.

Honor Roll Students At Seminary

St. Andrew Seminary has announced its honor roll for November as follows:

High School I—Peter Burke, William Schreiber, Robert Schrader, Robert Alley, David Asselin, Paul Moskowitz, Michael Cook, Patrick Murphy, James Mosher, James Jones, William Nealon, Timothy Skelly, Robert Wiseman.

High School II—William Hurley, Stephen Menemeyer, Thomas Wolf, Robert Schwartz, Vaughn Polmenester, James Woytash, John Vorasi, Joseph Knight, William Yantz, Lee Waterman, Charles DiSalvo.

High School III—Daniel Finn, Thomas Dixon, Gregory Pierce, David Harradine, David Sarcino, Stephen Kraus, Gary Guiller, Jude Thines, Darrell Davis, Michael Coslett, Robert Kennedy, James Valone, Gregory Lynch, John Houle, Martin-Falumbo, Michael Wille, Bernard Huber.

High School IV—John Morrall, David Wolf, Matthew Kane, Kenneth Jones, Michael Mahler, Robert Simpson, Michael Dewhirst, Joseph McCormick, Paul Ryan, Terrence Richard, Thomas Hughes, Thomas Sireb, William Darling.

College Preparatory—Robert Nitoly, Gerald McInerney, Edward McCarthy, Joseph Hart, Peter Cosgriff.

College I—David Walker, Michael Britton, William McKeever, Michael Ball, Daniel Callan, Timothy Clark, Charles Steiger, Richard Cilano, Michael Saamer, Walter Kotzold.

College II—Richard Welsh, James Romer, Richard Schaad.

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